



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03715.0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5/  
8-9-02

In re Application of: )  
AIMAR et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1723  
Application No.: 10/021,498 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: December 19, 2001 )  
For: PROCESS FOR DEPLETING )  
MONOVALENT CATIONS FROM )  
A WATER INTENDED FOR )  
NUTRITIONAL PURPOSES )  
Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED  
MAR 26 2002  
TC 1700

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

- 1. JP 49 007171:** A French search report is enclosed which states that the relevant portion of the reference is the "figure."  
The search report categorizes the reference as an "A" document, which means that the document defines "the general state at the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance."

**2. H. Ohya: " Proposal of an Integrated System for the Complete Usage of Sea Water":**

The publication includes an English Language abstract. The search report categorizes the reference as an "A" document, which means that the document defines "the general state at the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance."

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 22, 2002

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Anthony C. Tridico  
Reg. No. 45,958